

resolution (H. Res. 324) supporting National Civility Week, Inc., in its efforts to restore civility, honesty, integrity, and respectful consideration in the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 324

Whereas our civilization is founded upon the values of honesty, courtesy, and respectful consideration among its citizens;

Whereas we seek to teach and reaffirm these fundamental values of civility;

Whereas a lack of civility in recent years has become frighteningly apparent, as seen in media tales of road rage and school violence, of personal deceit and public corruption;

Whereas common courtesy has become bewilderingly uncommon;

Whereas a large part of many Americans' behavior can be traced to a failure to honor the codes of civil conduct that have governed society for many generations;

Whereas the teaching of courtesy has declined while the celebration of vulgarity and effrontery has increased;

Whereas many Americans have ceased to honor the good examples that surround them;

Whereas in this context, too many people find it easy to manifest disrespect for other age groups, races, and religions;

Whereas National Civility Week, Inc. is a nonpartisan and nonprofit corporation devoted to reintroducing civility in our Nation;

Whereas National Civility Week, Inc. has encouraged the establishment of Civility Weeks in a number of states in an effort to reaffirm society's commitment to adhere to well-established rules of civil conduct;

Whereas National Civility Week, Inc. will honor those who practice common decency and simple honesty; and

Whereas National Civility Week, Inc. will draw attention to the behaviors and standards that we respect as a people, and will celebrate the conduct that ties together the threads of our social fabric: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives supports these efforts to restore civility, honesty, integrity, and respectful consideration in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 324, supporting National Civility Week. I would like to thank the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), who recognized the im-

portance of this measure and assured its consideration today on the House floor. I also want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for introducing this important legislation as well.

This resolution provides an opportunity for all of us to reflect upon the changing nature of our culture and its increasing lack of civility. In 1998, former Secretary of Education William Bennett and former Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia collaborated on an assessment of our Nation's civic health. After reviewing rates of volunteerism and other forms of civic participation, they concluded that civility among the American people has declined dramatically in recent decades.

We do not need to look too far to understand that this lack of civility is permeating our political discussion. In the first papers of *The Federalist*, the author expressed hope that Americans might establish good government through reflection and choice. In contrast to what later essays in *The Federalist* would call the heat and violence of faction, the founders hoped that our government would come to reflect the deliberate sense of the community.

Too frequently today this body's deliberations represent the violence of faction through partisan posturing. Too often in our deliberations we hear accusations and innuendo. The occasional lack of civility in this body reflects what is happening to our culture in a broader sense. As a society, we have become detached from and, in many ways, no longer honor the traditional codes of civil conduct.

Reattaching ourselves to a system that honors decency and promotes common courtesy is one of the most important things we can do. This recognition of National Civility Week, while a small gesture, provides an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of civility in our culture as well as in this body's political deliberations. It can provide additional impetus to the bipartisan congressional retreats we hold each year at Hershey and elevate the quality and civility of our political discussions.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to offer this legislation for consideration, and trust that it will draw attention to behaviors and standards that we ought to expect but do not always practice. When I was elected to this body, I pledged to work to restore faith in government through honesty, decency, and personal responsibility.

□ 1400

We must hold ourselves to a higher standard, not a lower one, that we expect of other people. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first wanted to thank many of my colleagues who have worked on this legislation: The gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BURTON), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform; the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking Democrat; the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service; and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the ranking member.

I particularly want to thank my friend and distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), for managing this legislation. Although she has been with us only a short time, she has brought a great deal of civility to this body for which we are deeply grateful.

I also want to thank our colleagues who have been the principal cosponsors of this legislation, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SAWYER).

As my colleague the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) has already indicated, these two colleagues have been committed to increasing the civility here within this House. They have been the leading force behind our biannual retreats in an effort to improve personal relations among colleagues here in this body.

Their commitment to improving relations between Members is fully consistent with the purpose of this resolution that we are considering today. I am grateful for their enthusiastic support.

Mr. Speaker, a student-created and student-run nonprofit organization, National Civility Week, Incorporated, deserves our support to restore civility, honesty, integrity, and respectful consideration in the United States.

Our civilization, Mr. Speaker, is founded upon and cannot function without the values of honesty and courtesy and respectful consideration among its citizens. As parents and grandparents, we seek to teach and reaffirm these fundamental values of civility. But unfortunately, the lack of civility in recent years has become frighteningly apparent, as seen in road rage and school violence, personal deceit, and public corruption.

Common courtesy has become bewilderingly uncommon. A large part of many Americans' behavior can be traced to a failure to honor the codes of civil conduct that have governed other societies for so many generations. The teaching of courtesy has declined, while the celebration of vulgarity and effrontery have increased.

Many Americans have ceased to honor the good examples that surround them. In this context, too many people find it easy to manifest disrespect for other age groups, other races, other religions. National Civility Week, Incorporated, is a nonpartisan and nonprofit

corporation which is devoted to reintroducing civility to our Nation.

It honors those who practice common decency and simple honesty. It draws attention to the behaviors and standards that we respect as a people and celebrates the conduct that ties together the threads of our social fabric.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I want to pay tribute to the young founder of this organization, Ms. Charity Tillemann-Dick, for her outstanding efforts in bringing this measure to our attention.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 324 provides a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the character and manner of our public and political deliberations, as well as to improve the way we treat each other.

Congress should seize this opportunity to lead by example. Not only should we pass House Resolution 324, celebrating National Civility Week, but we should provide on a daily basis the examples of civil speech and conduct that contribute to the rule of reason and show the American public that civility does count.

I congratulate the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for sponsoring this fine legislation. I am proud to bring it to the floor and ask for the full support of all Members on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 324.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER A RESOLUTION PRESENTING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of House Rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intent to present a question of privilege to the House expressing the sense that its

rights and integrity have been impugned.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman state the form of his resolution.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, the form of the resolution is as follows:

Calling upon the President to abstain from renegotiating international agreements governing antidumping and countervailing measures.

Whereas under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, the Congress has power and responsibility with regard to foreign commerce and the conduct of international trade negotiations;

Whereas the House of Representatives is deeply concerned that, in connection with the World Trade Organization Ministerial meeting to be held in Seattle, Washington, and the multilateral trade negotiations expected to follow, a few countries are seeking to circumvent the agreed list of negotiation topics and reopen debate over the WTO's antidumping and antisubsidy rules;

Whereas strong antidumping and antisubsidy rules are a cornerstone of the liberal trade policy of the United States and are essential to the health of the manufacturing and farm sectors of the United States;

Whereas it has long been and remains the policy of the United States to support its antidumping and antisubsidy laws and to defend those laws in international negotiations;

Whereas the current absence of official negotiating objectives on the statute books must not be allowed to undermine the Congress' constitutional role in charting the direction of United States trade policy;

Whereas under present circumstances, launching a negotiation that includes antidumping and antisubsidy issues would affect the rights of the House and the integrity of its proceedings;

Whereas opening these rules to renegotiation could only lead to weakening them, which would in turn lead to even greater abuse of the world's open markets, particularly that of the United States;

Whereas, conversely, avoiding another divisive fight over these rules is the best way to promote progress on the other, far more important issues facing the WTO members; and

Whereas it is, therefore, essential that negotiations on these antidumping and antisubsidy matters not be reopened under the auspices of the WTO or otherwise:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, That the House of Representatives calls upon the President:

(1) not to participate in any international negotiation in which antidumping or antisubsidy rules are part of the negotiating agenda;

(2) to refrain from submitting for congressional approval agreements that require changes to the current antidumping and countervailing duty laws and enforcement policies of the United States; and

(3) to enforce the antidumping and countervailing duty laws vigorously in all pending and future cases.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask to be heard at the appropriate time on the question of whether this resolution constitutes a question of privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair just stated that the gentleman will be notified.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF CONGRESS FOR INCREASING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECENNIAL CENSUS

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 193) expressing the support of Congress for activities to increase public participation in the decennial census.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 193

Whereas the decennial census is required by article I, section 2, clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas, in order to achieve a successful decennial census, the joint efforts of Federal, State, and local government, and of other institutions, groups, organizations, and individuals will be needed;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census has implemented a partnership program through which a comprehensive outreach, education, and motivation campaign is being carried out to encourage all segments of the population to participate in the upcoming census; and

Whereas it is fitting and proper that Congress seek to promote the efforts of the Bureau of the Census, and of the other aforementioned institutions, organizations, groups, and individuals to achieve a successful decennial census: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) recognizes the importance of achieving a successful decennial census;

(2) encourages State and local governments, community leaders, and all other parties involved in this joint undertaking to continue to work to ensure a successful census;

(3) reaffirms the spirit of cooperation that exists between Congress and the Bureau of the Census with respect to achieving a successful census; and

(4) asserts this public partnership between Congress and the Bureau of the Census to promote the decennial census.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.